Prevention of Deteriorations of Forests in Coastal Andhra Pradesh

1597. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minsiter of ENEVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received suggestions to strengthen the office of regional CCF in the south far better supervision and advise of Government to prevent rapid deterioration of forest in coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this matter; and

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up in consultation with Government of Andhra Pradesh to reduce depletion of forests in Eastern Ghats in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion to appoint a Range Officer as Consultant in Regional Office (SZ), Bengalore, after his retirement has been received. This is not possible under rules.

(c) Yes, Sir.

WHO's Suggestion on Pollution

1598. SHRI MANTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion from WHO on how to protect our citizens from ever-increasing pollution.

(b) what are the details of the suggestions from WHO on this subject; and

(c) whether any of these suggestions been implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hazardous Effects of Benzindine Dyes

1599. SHRI MANTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted about the hazardous nature of benzindine based Dyes;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of people working with this dyes have developed cancer; and

(c) what action Government have initiated to give relief to the contaminated people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) As per the published records, there were 10,382 cases of cancer of all types in Greater Bombay during the period 1967-69. Out of this, nearly 100 cases are reported to have been caused due to exposure of workers working in the dye factories around Bombay. Another study conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad on 18 workers working in a dye-stuff manufacturing unit revealed that some of these workers excreted very high levels of benzindine in their urine which is a potential cause for bladder cancer in the workers.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to deal with the hazards of benzidine-based dyes:

(i) Because of carcinogenic nature of benzindine-based dyes, the Government of India have already banned their manufacture with effect from 30.1.1993 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) The Government of Maharashtra had also banned the manufacture of such dyes in 1985 under the Maharashtra Factories Act.